

Outreach Education

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
Curecanti National Recreation Area

National Park Service



Grade 5, Pre-Visit Activity, "The Plight of the Gunnison Sage-Grouse"

Name: _____

Vocabulary

Ecosystem: the living things (plants and animals) and their non-living surrounding (rocks, etc.) in a certain area. Examples of ecosystems: pond, marsh, river

Endangered species: animals and plants that are on the verge of vanishing from the earth

Extinct: no longer in existence; the result when the last individual of a population dies and that organism is gone forever

Habitat: place that is natural for the life and growth of an organism

Indicator species: whole groups of flora/fauna types which can be used to assess environmental condition.

Lek: a traditional place where males assemble during the mating season and engage in competitive displays that attract females

Riparian area: on the bank of a river or other body of water

Threatened species: animals and plants that may soon become endangered, because their population is declining



Gunnison Sage Grouse photo
by Louis Swift

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Gunnison Sage-Grouse Internet Mystery Search

Instructions: Either in your school computer lab, at the library, or at home, visit this website and see if YOU can successfully discover the answer to the Gunnison Sage Grouse mystery!

<http://www.western.edu/bio/young/gunnsg/gunnsg.htm#Colorado%20distribution>

1) Click on the "Comparison to Other Sage-Grouse" link, at the top of the page.

You should see two pictures of birds that look similar to each other. One of the birds is the Gunnison Sage-Grouse. What is the other bird called? _____ Sage-Grouse

2) Go to the top of the page, and click on the "Conservation Concerns" link. In the second paragraph, it says: The key to maintenance of any species is providing sufficient _____.

3) Keep reading (under the "Conservation Concerns" link), and answer this question: What is 1 of the causes of habitat loss and fragmentation for Sage-Grouse in the Gunnison Basin?

4) Go to the top of the page, and click on the "Hunting" link, then answer this question:

Can people hunt the Gunnison Sage-Grouse this year? _____ (yes or no)

5) Go to the top of the page, and click on the "Sounds and Video Clips" link. Click on the Gunnison Sage-Grouse link, and watch the male sage-grouse dance and sing to attract a partner!

Congratulations!

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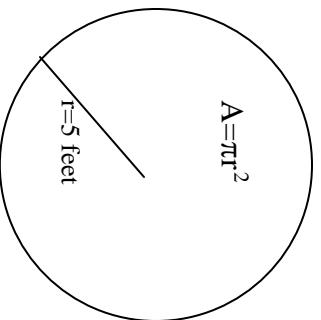


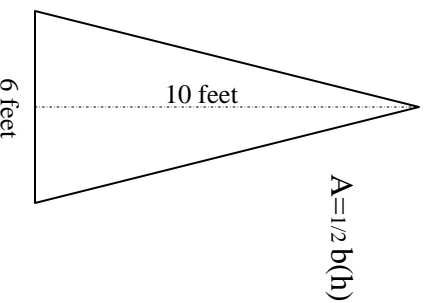
Grade 5, Post-Visit Activity, "The Plight of the Gunnison Sage-Grouse"

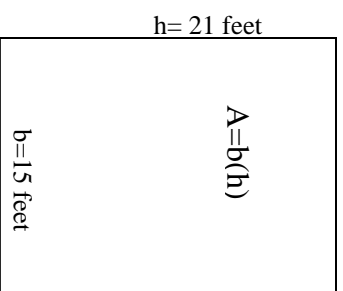
Name: _____

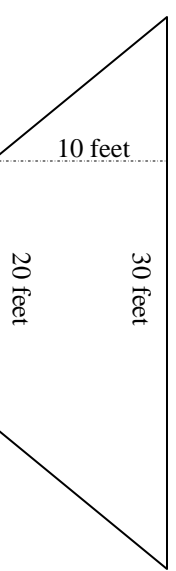
The Gunnison Sage-Grouse needs several different habitats. It lays its eggs in one area, raises its chicks in another, and finds a mate in yet another habitat. The area where the male sage-grouse mates with the female is called a "lek." The males perform a sort of song and dance, fluffing up their fancy feathers and blowing air into their bright orange air sacs, in the hopes of attracting a female. A lek needs to be a wide open space, but it must be surrounded by sage brush, where the birds can hide if danger gets too close. Usually a lek is greater than 75 square feet and smaller than 300 square feet.

Instructions: Determine the area of each of the leks drawn below. On the line below each lek, write the area and "yes" if it's the right size for a lek, and "no" if it's too big or too small to be a good lek.









This one is a challenge! Can YOU figure it out?
